



Camp may have looked a little different this summer, but campers still experienced the joy and magic of Hole in the Wall safely in their homes.



a seriousfun camp

## A Summer Like No Other

### How Hole in the Wall Turned a Summer of Uncertainty into a Summer of Camp Magic

Can the magic of Hole in the Wall's summer program be replicated in a living room? A kitchen? A tent in a back yard?

As Hole in the Wall still worked to create an alternative summer program, these questions were swirling. Several weeks into the global pandemic, there was no choice to but to cancel in-person programming, but it was also clear that children and families needed the magic of Hole in the Wall more than ever before. So, how could that magic be recreated in new, alternative ways?

Guided by Founder Paul Newman's spirit of innovation and inspired by the incredible resilience of our campers, Camp staff sprung into action, brainstorming new approaches and building off of previous success pivoting Camp's programming during the spring. As the programming began to take shape, it became clear that a key hallmark of Camp – providing campers with choice – would again play a central role this summer by offering children three different tracks to choose from.

More than 500 campers and siblings signed up to be a part of the fun, choosing from a virtual summer session, a screen-free mailing series

and special interest clubs. And even though campers participated from their homes, it was a much needed dose of hope and healing.

The mailing series offered adventures in STEM, arts & crafts, creative writing or a mix of popular activities. Campers received three packages over a six week period, each with a different activity they could complete at home. It was an opportunity to explore areas of interest while also getting a break from their screens.

In the clubs, campers made connections through shared interests in photography, cartooning, cooking, theater, music or magic, joining Zoom sessions where expert counselors in each field mentored them.

"The number of campers who truly mastered new skills is something we might not see during a 'typical summer,'" said Camp Director Alan "Pendo" Pender. "It was a great opportunity for campers to step outside of their comfort zones and as a result find that their self-confidence has increased."

Finally, virtual summer sessions recreated the traditional experience of the summer program through a mix of live and pre-recorded activities.

Camper favorites like opening campfire, stage night, cabin chat and more provided platforms where campers could connect with one another and show their talents. And through these sessions, campers also found a different kind of support from their friends, seeing positive responses while scrolling through the comments following a performance, or in a breakout room with their cabinmates during afternoon activities.

"Doing Camp online was a different experience," camper Ryan said. "But it really felt like you were experiencing everything just like at Camp. When we were singing *Stars in the Sky*, I realized, Wow! That's crazy! We're ACTUALLY at Camp, even down to people having the auditorium as a background. Not a lot of kids can experience Camp, so this has been really cool."

Once again, we've seen proof that the magic of Camp can happen anywhere. And while we can't wait to return to the place we all love so much, it continues to be reassuring and inspiring to continue to see campers transformed by the magic of Hole in the Wall, even during these very different times.

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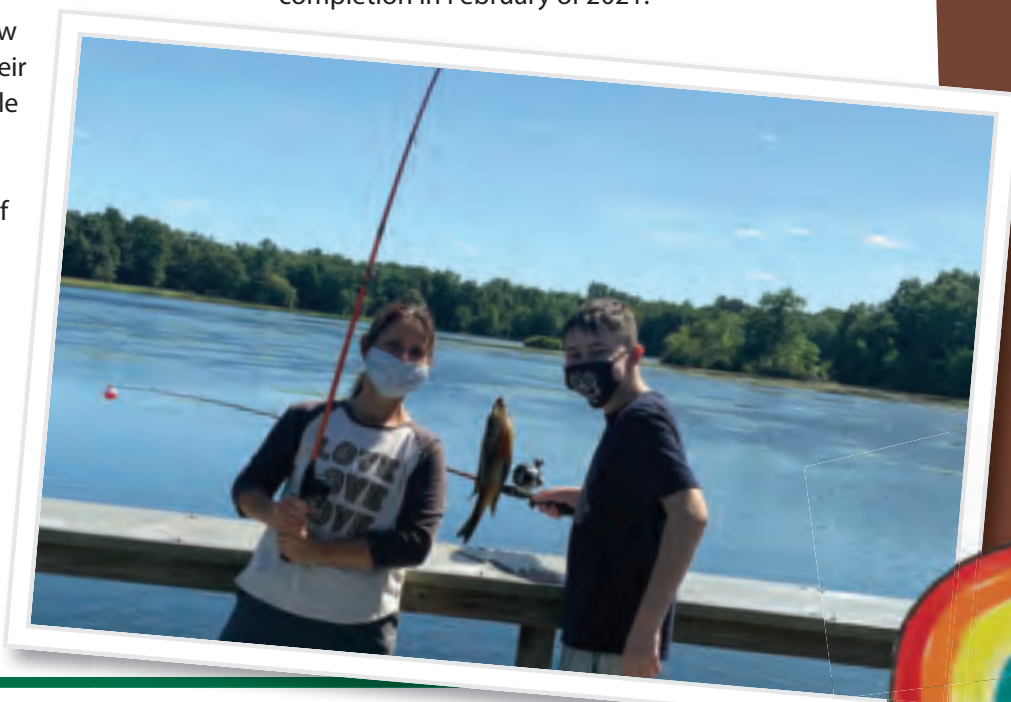
# What's New at Camp

In a year where so much has changed, Camp is no exception as our staff continues to pivot to find alternative ways to safely bring “a different kind of healing”<sup>SM</sup> to our children and families during these uncertain times.

This summer and fall, virtual and alternative programming continued bringing joy, hope and friendship in a variety of ways. More than 120 camper parents have had the opportunity to share triumphs and challenges during weekly Caregiver Cabin Chats on Zoom. Following the very popular summer mailing series, this fall, families were able to choose from one of two mailing series, and Camp staff safely sent out more than 1,000 packages to participants! For the first time, our Family Outreach team also offered virtual regional CampOut events providing opportunities for campers to gather online with friends and share in activities like music trivia. Additionally, we continued offering virtual home visits, bringing one hour of activities directly to families, but with a new twist - families could combine their visit with another family to double the virtual Camp fun!

Hospital Outreach also continued to provide a variety of virtual programming, including bedside visits, playgroups and videos shared via closed circuit TV. And beginning this fall, HOP has begun to safely resume in-person programming with several of our partner hospitals, which you can read more about later in this issue.

*It felt good to safely welcome families back to Camp for Family Fun Days this fall.*



Onsite, more than 30 families were safely able to visit Camp for Fall Family Fun Days. Over seven Saturdays in September and October, families enjoyed activities like archery, fishing, arts & crafts and more. Each family was guided through their individualized Camp experience by a single volunteer or staff member, and participated in activities as a family unit. For many of the families, the visit to Camp was a rare opportunity to leave their homes since the pandemic began in March, and a welcome chance to reconnect with a place that means so much to them.

Also onsite, we're excited to share that construction on the new Young Adult Lodge continues to move forward. Excavation, site drainage, and rough grading concluded in early summer. The foundation slabs for the three residential bunkhouses were poured, and framing is now complete. We anticipate an on-time completion in February of 2021.

# From the CEO

In these uncertain times, one thing remains certain – Hole in the Wall will always find ways to bring hope and healing to the brave children and families Camp serves. Throughout this year, I have been so proud of our staff who have come up with innovative new ways to connect Camp with those most in need of “a different kind of healing.”<sup>SM</sup> Our campers and their families need Camp connections more than ever right now. The fear, uncertainty and isolation we have all been feeling is even more intense for those living in the shadow of a serious illness. And though things continue to look different, the magic is still happening.

Despite the challenges of this year, Camp has provided 12,000 healing experiences to children and family members. For nearly three months – from January - March, we were able to offer all of our

traditional programs. Then in the spring, we saw a seamless pivot to virtual and alternative activities that delivered joy and laughter right to camper doorsteps, kitchens and living rooms. This fall, we began to safely resume some in-person programming with families able to spend a Saturday at Camp, taking in the joy of being able to spend time at a place they love. And, as you'll read in these pages, our Hospital Outreach Program<sup>SM</sup> has begun offering in-person bedside visits with carefully vetted hospital partners.

Though things continue to look different, we are making the best darn lemonade that we can from this bowl of sour pandemic lemons. We're excited to see where this journey leads us in the year to come and beyond. But one thing we know will continue to be true – Camp is everywhere.



*CEO Jimmy Canton raises a lemonade toast to our community of friends who have helped us provide “a different kind of healing” during this very different year.*

# Creative CORNER

This summer, campers were able to explore their interests in mailing series with themes like Arts & Crafts. Camper Lily got creative with this incredible art journal, which she will always have as a reminder of her experience.



# Family Flats

*Stories from current and former camper families.*

For 11 year-old Pippin, Hole in the Wall offers a place where he can simply be himself. It is a place where he can leave his illness at the gate and just have fun supported by people who see him rather than the limitations he experiences from chronic illness and immune deficiency. At Camp, his medical support fades into the background and he gets to “raise a little hell,” surrounded by what he calls his “real friends.” And his mother, Beth, sees a place where Pippin can be independent while getting the care he needs.

“Camp for us is a magical place, somewhere we all can relax and know that my son’s needs will be taken care of, special diets will be accommodated and that the people we meet will be without exception caring and kind,” Beth said. “At Camp, Pippin gets an opportunity to come out from under my wing and be independent with everyone else. Meanwhile I know that there are plenty of other adults in the background watching him just as carefully as I would.”

But Camp has changed the lives of not just Pippin, but also his whole family. At Family Weekends and

during sibling session, his family has found a community of support who understand the challenges they face. And at a Parent and Caregiver Retreat, Beth and her husband not only found peers with similar experiences, but they also were able to spend a weekend away for the first time since Pippin was diagnosed at age two.

“The people we met at the Parent and Caregiver Retreat gave us the courage and assistance we needed to put our son in school,” Beth said. “Meeting other parents with immune compromised children showed us what was possible and opened up our son’s world. To say that Camp has changed our lives for the better would be to greatly understate the impact Hole in the Wall has had and continues to have on an ongoing basis.”

Though things have looked different this past year, Pippin and his family have continued to experience the joy of Hole in the Wall through virtual Family Weekends and summer sessions. And they even were able to make a visit to Camp this fall as a family during one of our seven Family Fun Days, where they were able to safely participate in a variety of Camp activities together.

“Words are inadequate to express the amount of joy Pippin experienced from his day at Camp,” Beth said. “I was curious to see how it would go since interacting with the people is such a huge part of the Camp experience, but Hole in the Wall never disappoints. What a spectacular day. It felt like coming home. Pippin was on cloud nine for the rest of the day, fighting going to sleep to have the day end.”

*Snow cones are a tasty Unity Day tradition that Pippin enjoyed a few summers ago.*

***“Meeting other parents with immune compromised children showed us what was possible and opened up our son’s world. To say that Camp has changed our lives for the better would be to greatly understate the impact Hole in the Wall has had and continues to have on an ongoing basis.”***



*This September, HOP safely returned to in-person programming in several of our partner hospitals. It feels good to be back!*

## Hospital Outreach on the GO

***Highlights from our exciting year-round program that brings the joy of Camp to seriously ill children in locations across the Northeast.***

Like all Camp programming this spring and summer, the Hospital Outreach Program<sup>SM</sup> (HOP) pivoted with a purpose and began delivering programming virtually. For months, the regional teams of HOP specialists worked together to build a library of hundreds of videos that were shared directly with children and via hospital closed circuit TV channels. They also brought crafts, games and laughter to children’s rooms through virtual bedside visits and helped build remote connections with Zoom playgroups. In all, there were more than 5,400 HOP experiences, breaking through a time of even more acute isolation and supporting staff that were being stretched in many directions.

While the HOP team’s creativity brought much needed joy and hope into the hospitals during these unprecedented times, there truly is nothing like being able to sit by a child’s bedside and share a laugh, create a work of art, and build a friendship in person. That’s why HOP was thrilled to safely resume in-person programming in several partner hospitals this fall.

To ensure a safe return for all, Camp’s medical team – Dr. Dave, Nurse Christine, Nurse Emily and Nurse Jen – worked closely with each partner hospital who had requested a return to in-person services. A questionnaire was shared with each location to determine what safety protocols were in place, the accessibility of personal

protective equipment (PPE) for our staff and the integration of HOP into contact tracing. Our medical team then virtually met with each location to ensure all were comfortable with the return. Finally, the HOP staff underwent trainings at each location on new COVID-related policies and procedures. It was a long and detailed process, but worth the end result – being able to go back to doing the work that is so important and well received.

“We are super excited to be returning back to the work that we hold so dear in our hearts,” said Michele “Gill” McKenna, Director, Hospital Outreach. “It’s been extraordinary to be a part of this process. While there have been some understandable concerns to consider, this has been so thoughtful and well planned out that we feel very comfortable going back.”

As we continue into the fall and winter, we hope to continue offering this in-person programming, but will be carefully monitoring factors around COVID-19 to ensure the safety of all. For now, though, it’s good to be back doing what is so meaningful to our staff and families.

For more information about Hole in the Wall’s Hospital Outreach Program, visit [www.holeinthewallgang.org/programs/hospital-outreach](http://www.holeinthewallgang.org/programs/hospital-outreach), or email Gill at [michele.mckenna@holeinthewallgang.org](mailto:michele.mckenna@holeinthewallgang.org).



# GO FAR

This summer and fall looked different from last year. The joy, hope and healing of Camp can be experienced and shared in new ways. While we can't wait to return to in-person programming, we'll continue to connect in different ways during these challenging times.



## BY THE NUMBERS

More than 500 campers signed up for three alternative summer program tracks including virtual weeklong Camp sessions, a screen-free mailing series and Camp Clubs.

More than 10,000 boxes filled with program supplies and comforts were safely delivered to campers all summer and fall months.

Camp facilitated more than 9,100 interactions through a variety of virtual and in-person Hospital Outreach programming.

So far this fall, Camp safely resumed in-person programming at 12 partner hospitals.

# WIN 2020

om any other, but these smiles say it all.  
ywhere and the magic of Camp can be found everywhere.  
Continue to innovate and pivot to bring "a different kind of healing"  
times when it is needed most.



## NUMBERS

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upplies and  
of Camp  
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pnants.

More than 800  
parents, campers  
and siblings  
participated in  
in-person CampOut  
events, as well as  
virtual Caregiver  
Cabin Chats and  
home visits.

Seven Fall Family  
Fun Days safely  
served 138  
participants in  
person at Camp  
this fall.

More than  
200 volunteers  
helped facilitate  
programming  
and also wrote  
personalized notes  
included in camper  
mailings.

# Our Events

Highlights of our latest benefit events and those to come...

It was a very different Gala this September, as our Fandango Benefit Gala followed all of our programming into the virtual landscape. But, as with our other programs, the joy, spirit and traditions carried on, with an inspirational performance featuring six talented campers who were joined by a stellar line up of celebrity friends. *Camp Is Everywhere: A Hole in the Wall Celebration of Hope and Healing* brought together longtime supporters and new Camp friends, creating a virtual broadcast experience streamed online via our website, YouTube and Facebook pages.

"Even though we all couldn't be together at Camp for the Gala this year, it was important to keep the tradition going and remind Hole in the Wall's community of supporters that Camp is everywhere," said CEO Jimmy Canton. "One incredible silver lining this year was that thousands of people were able to enjoy the event, introducing many new friends to Camp at a time when the world needs more hope, healing and friendship."

On Sunday, September 13, Camp supporters from across the country tuned into the show, which featured musical numbers, camper and family stories and more. Campers Aiyanna, Connor, Dmitri, Drew, Elsa and Kerrin, shared incredible performances of songs from *Moana* and *Hercules*, and they were joined by Jonathan Groff for a humorous rendition of "You'll Be Back" from *Hamilton*. Additionally, Rhonda Ross and Steven Pasquale entertained with beautiful songs, while Carole King shared her remembrances of Camp Founding Board Member A.E. Hotchner, who passed away earlier this year. Sterling K. Brown, Stephen Colbert, Dane DeHaan, Joel de la Fuente, Tyler Hoechlin, John Lithgow, Aasif Mandvi, Bridget Moynahan, Adam Ottavino, Sigourney Weaver, Luke Wilson and Anna Wood added their talents to the show, making it a night to remember.

Many long-time Camp friends brought their support to the event, with presenting sponsors American Packaging Corporation, Christina and John Horner, Jill and Bobby LeBlanc, The Metropoulos Family Foundation, Newman's Own Foundation and Liz and Ken Whitney leading the way. Thanks to the generosity of our community, more than \$825,000 was raised to support Camp's growing programs.

*This year's Fandango Benefit Gala may have looked a little different, but all the magic of Hole in the Wall was everywhere.*



## Pardner Profile

A place to shout about a few of the people who make Camp the remarkable place it is.

When Jarrett Krosoczka, a *New York Times*-bestselling author and illustrator, was in high school, he was one of a handful of students from his school selected to volunteer for a week at a camp for children with cancer. While there, he connected with a family thinking about attending Hole in the Wall, and he later heard from them what an amazing experience it was. Armed with his personal experience volunteering with seriously ill children and this family's endorsement, he took a leap of faith and applied to join the summer staff at The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in the summer of 1996.

From the first moment he stepped onto Camp, Jarrett felt how the organization was built upon trust – the trust of the staff who work together to achieve a common goal, the trust of supporters that Camp will fulfill its mission, and most of all, the trust of parents who place their children into Camp's care. He knew it was a place where he wanted to be.

Jarrett went on to spend the next six summers in various roles at Camp – from Cabin Counselor to Floater –

and then volunteered for many years following. As he went on to find success as an author/illustrator and start a family of his own, Jarrett had to scale back on his time volunteering, but continues to carry Camp with him, and provide support whenever he can.

"Camp profoundly impacted me," Jarrett says of his experiences. "At Hole in the Wall, I learned how to be a leader. No matter how much you put into your experience at Camp, you get so much more out of it."

This past summer, Camp looked wildly different, but Jarrett's support and connection never wavered. Paired with cartoonist Steve Brosnihan, Jarrett led the Comic Drawing Club, sharing his expertise with campers who were very excited to find out that one of their favorite authors was their counselor this summer.

"I was thrilled to be able to continue to share Camp's mission in new ways and in whatever ways they needed," Jarrett said. "Even though the sessions were different, interacting with the campers wasn't. The beats of the session were repeated – the kids

still need and want to be seen and heard – and the last day is still sad."

And as we headed into the holiday season, Jarrett has worked closely with a camper to create Hole in the Wall's annual holiday card. Just one more way he's been continuing his journey with Camp.

If you'd like to learn more about becoming a volunteer at Hole in the Wall, please visit [www.holeintehwallgang.org/volunteeropportunities](http://www.holeintehwallgang.org/volunteeropportunities), or contact our volunteer team at [volunteers@holeintehwallgang.org](mailto:volunteers@holeintehwallgang.org).



Bestselling author/illustrator Jarrett J. Krosoczka was thrilled to return as a summer volunteer.

# Trail Blazers

*Amazing athletes wrangle friends and family to support Camp*

Though Camp Challenge – Hole in the Wall’s annual run/walk and cycling fundraiser – has changed from year to year, one thing has remained consistent, the incredible community of friends who hop on their bikes, lace up their running shoes, or enthusiastically volunteer to support the seriously ill children and families Camp serves. And this year was no different.

For the first time ever this fall, Camp Challenge went virtual, offering traditional cycling distances of 62-mi, 30-mi and 15-mi and a range of running/walking distances including the traditional Bandit 5K, and new 10K and Half Marathon options. While we missed bringing our community together at Camp, it was exciting to see the continued commitment of our longtime supporters and welcome new friends to our community.

“It’s always exciting to see our community come together and get active for Camp,” said Andrea Keefe, director of community and corporate partnerships. “This year,

it was especially inspiring to see how the virtual event provided new opportunities for families to join together and participate in ways they hadn’t in the past.”

For longtime Camp Challenge participant Rick Baker, this year’s event was the perfect opportunity to get his daughter and granddaughter involved in the event. Rick, who has been cycling for more than a decade, first got involved after his son-in-law participated the very first year. His family attended the celebration at Camp, and immediately knew it was a special place.

“Camp has its own aura,” Rick said. “After visiting that first time, I went out, got a bike and started riding. I participated in the 62-mile ride the next year. Over the years, I’ve met so many people that Camp has helped. I can’t think of a better organization to support.”

Rick has participated in Camp Challenge with various friends and family in the past, but this year

he was excited to help his 11-year-old granddaughter train for her first big cycling event. Though a 15-mile ride seemed daunting at first, after consistently training together, they did it.

“It was really special for us,” Rick said. “My wife and daughter joined us as well, and we had a lot of fun. And it feels really good to be able to help other people.”

If you’d like to learn more about Camp Challenge or becoming a Hole in the Wall FUNraiser, visit [www.holeinthewallgang.org/FUNraiser](http://www.holeinthewallgang.org/FUNraiser) or email Andrea at [andrea.keefe@holeinthewallgang.org](mailto:andrea.keefe@holeinthewallgang.org).



*The virtual Camp Challenge allowed participants like Rick Baker to safely join in the fun with their families.*

*“Over the years, I’ve met so many people that Camp has helped. I can’t think of a better organization to support.”*

## Sheriff’s Spotlight

*A shout-out to our dedicated corporate partners.*

Shelley Cole, Take-Two Interactives’ Senior Vice President of Global Total Rewards, has long been familiar with Hole in the Wall. As a child growing up in Westport, Conn., she had heard her family talk about the Camp and what a special place it was. Years later, when she was living near Lincoln Center in New York City, she saw an opportunity to attend a special anniversary Gala, and has remained involved since.

“I had made a donation at a Gala, and Camp sent a gift bag thanking

me,” Shelley said. “I was so surprised to receive that kind of acknowledgement. Later, I was able to visit the Camp while the kids were there. It was wonderful seeing them have a great time, and that blossomed into Take-Two taking advantage of a Helping Hands Work Day.”

Since then, Take-Two, a leading developer, publisher and marketer of interactive entertainment for consumers around the globe, has participated in Helping Hands Work Days at Hole in the Wall several times, traveling from New York City to

Ashford to help prepare Camp’s facility for Family Weekends, summer sessions and more. The organization makes a day of it, serving breakfast on the bus ride to Camp and sharing celebratory cocktails on the way home.

“Our staff loves Helping Hands Work Days at Camp,” Shelley said. “It’s one of their favorite volunteer opportunities that we offer. And it makes them feel good knowing that they work for a company that cares.”

But Take-Two’s generosity extends beyond volunteerism. The company has been financially supporting Camp’s programs since 2018, and this year, became a Corporate Partner at the Marshall level. Shelley, too, has remained a committed Camp supporter.

“To see an ardent supporter bring their organization into the Camp fold is incredibly inspiring,” said Camp’s Chief Development and Communications Officer Ryan Thompson. “We are humbled by Shelley’s friendship as well as the growing and generous support of Take-Two that she was able to inspire.”

If you’d like to learn more about becoming a corporate partner at Hole in the Wall, contact Andrea Keefe, Director, Community and Corporate Partnerships at [andrea.keefe@holeinthewallgang.org](mailto:andrea.keefe@holeinthewallgang.org).

*“Our staff loves Helping Hands Work Days at Camp. It’s one of their favorite volunteer opportunities that we offer. And it makes them feel good knowing that they work for a company that cares.”*



Founded in 1988 by Paul Newman, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp is a community dedicated to providing “a different kind of healing” to seriously ill children and their families through a variety of year-round programs. The Camp delivers fun, friendship and a healthy dose of mischief through its signature summer program and weekend sessions at the Camp facility in Ashford, Conn. as well as outreach to hospitals, clinics and communities across the Northeast. All services are free of charge. In keeping with Camp’s core value of Camaraderie, Hole in the Wall fosters a community of purposeful inclusion through a commitment to diversity and equity.

The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp never sells or shares its donor names and addresses. This policy reflects our commitment as a charity to maintain the highest integrity in order to protect and ensure privacy, while building a personal relationship with each donor.

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The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp  
Paul Newman, *Founder*  
Ray Lamontagne, *Chair, Board of Directors*  
James H. Canton, *Chief Executive Officer*



The stars came out and stayed in, joining our campers virtually for Camp Is Everywhere: A Hole in the Wall Celebration of Hope and Healing – an inspirational Gala event that premiered online on September 13th.



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Look inside to see  
how Camp turned  
pandemic lemons  
into lemonade.

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